REMARKS

Claims 13 and 16 have been amended for clarification purposes. Claims 1-12 and 17-24 were previously canceled. Claims 25 and 26 have been added. Claims 13-16, 25, and 26 are pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pedersen (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,348). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 recites "[a] network server connected to at least one client through a network, comprising: a main server for accepting an initial connection request from said client; and a plurality of sub-servers connected to said client after acceptance by said main server, ... said one sub-server provides directly to said client said information relating to the sub-servers on acceptance of a sub-server connection alteration request from said client; and said client connects to another sub-server based on said information relating to the sub-servers."

Similarly, claim 16 recites "[a] network system comprising: at least one client; and a network server including a main server that accepts an initial connection request from said client and a plurality of sub-servers connected to said client after acceptance by said main server, ... said one sub-server provides directly to said client said information relating to the sub-servers on acceptance of a sub-server connection alteration request from said client; and said client connects to another sub-server based on said information relating to the sub-servers."

Applicants respectfully submit that Pedersen fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 13 and 16. Pedersen relates to a network system for connecting a client node to an application execution server node with the least load. Specifically, when a

client node 18 requests access to an "application executed on an application execution server node 26, 26', the client node 18 sends a request to the master network information server node 34." Pedersen, co. 3, lines 14-22. If the client node 18 does not know the identity of the master network information server node 34, the client node 18 sends out a broadcast to all network information server nodes requesting the identity of the master network information server node 34. Pedersen, col. 6, lines 40-45. Once the broadcast has been received by a network information server node, the network information server node will send the identity information to the client node 18. Pedersen, col. 6, lines 45-49. Next, the client node 18 receives the identity information and sends a request to the master network information server node 34 for information regarding the desired application. Pedersen, col. 6, lines 50-53; col. 3, lines 14-17. The master network information server node 34 receives the request; looks up the server address of the application execution server node 26, 26' with the least load; and sends the information back to the client node 18. Pedersen, col. 6, lines 54-56; col. 3, lines 5-22. The client node 18 then requests service from the application execution server node 26, 26' with the least load. Pedersen, col. 6, lines 57-61, col. 3, lines 20-23.

Applicants respectfully submit that Pedersen fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that "one sub-server provides <u>directly</u> to said client said information relating to the sub-servers on acceptance of a sub-server connection alteration request from said client," as recited by claims 13 and 16 (emphasis added). The Office Action admits that Pedersen only discloses or suggests that "the sub-server provide connection request through the master network information server node." Office Action at page 4 (citing Pedersen at col. 3, lines 5-22). In fact, Pedersen specifically states that "several nodes may be capable of acting as a network information server node, but only one of such nodes is designated the master network information server node and it is to this node that client requests for server information are directed." Pedersen at col. 3, lines 1-4.

The Pedersen's network system discloses that the client node connects to the master network information server in order to obtain server information on application execution server nodes, and to connect to a desired application execution server node. As such, Pedersen does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 13 and 16.
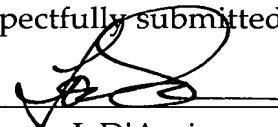
Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 13-16.

Claim 25 depends from claim 13 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 26 depends from claim 16 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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